

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending in this application. By way of this amendment and reply to the Office Action mailed September 27, 2002, claims 5 and 6 have been amended, claims 1-4 and 7-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 16-18 have been added. Therefore, claims 5, 6 and 16-18 are presently pending for further consideration on the merits.

Applicant's representative appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 5 and 6. Claims 5 and 6 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims, with the following exception. The features of the "bar code recording medium" and the "scanner" of claim 1 have not been included in claims 5 and 6, since these features are believed to be unnecessary for patentability of these claims. These features are included in new dependent claims 17 and 18, which depend from claims 5 and 6, respectively.

In the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to because it was greater than 150 words. By way of this amendment and reply, a new Abstract that is less than 150 words has been provided.

In the Office Action, the disclosure (specification) was objected to because of minor informalities noted on page 2 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, the specification has been amended to correct these minor informalities. The Examiner's help in providing suggested changes to the specification in order to correct these minor informalities is greatly appreciated.

In the Office Action, claims 8, 12 and 15 were objected to for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claims 8, 12 and 15, this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Due to the cancellation of claims 8-15, this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,939,695 to Nelson; claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,692 to Yacoub; claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,068,188 to Knowles; claims 8, 10, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,423,617 to Marsh et al.; claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson as modified by Marsh et al. in view of Yacoub; and claims 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson as modified by Marsh et al. in view of Knowles. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-4 and 7-15, these rejections are now all moot.

New independent claim 16 has been added by way of this amendment and reply, and it includes a feature in which the information in the information server identified from the portable terminal via the Internet is transmitted to the printer identified by the portable terminal, and is printed in the printer.

Therefore, in the invention according to claim 16, even if the portable terminal has neither the information nor the printer by itself, it is possible to acquire the desirable information via the network, if necessary, and to select the desired printer for printing via the network. Here, the desired printer is, for example, a printer located nearby the user. Thus, even if the user is in a mobile environment, it is possible to print the data by using a printer nearby the user.

In Nelson, it is assumed that the PC and the printer exist in the same location. Nelson neither discloses nor suggests the identification of the printer. That is, Nelson does not assume the use by the user of a mobile environment in

which a user's location is frequently changing. Because of this, the method of claim 16 would not be obvious from the disclosure of Nelson. Since none of the other cited art of record makes up for the above-mentioned deficiencies of Nelson, it is believed that claim 16 is allowable over the cited art of record.

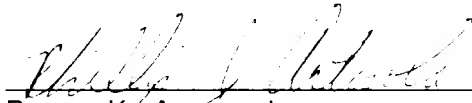
Therefore, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

March 21, 2003

Date



Pavan K. Agarwal

Registration No. 40,888

Phillip J. Articola

Registration No. 38,819

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**Marked-Up Abstract:**

[An object of the present invention is to provide an electronic information management system enabling various kinds of electronic information to be printed and downloaded by utilizing a portable communication terminal with a simple procedure.]

[The] An electronic information management system includes a portable communication terminal having a data communication function, an electronic information server for storing electronic information [consisting of] including, e.g., document data or image data, and a printer. Each of the portable communication terminal, the electronic information server and the printer has a connection function to an internet. The portable communication terminal is connected to the internet through a [non-illustrated] radio relay device. Since a content of a bar code can be read by a scanner of the portable communication terminal so that electronic information data can be downloaded from the electronic information server or the electronic information can be printed based on the basis of the read information, desired electronic information data can be simply and rapidly obtained from the portable communication terminal, thereby improving usability.

Marked-Up Specification:

The third and fourth full paragraphs on page 1 (lines 21-36):

However, the material distributed in the conference is originally an electronic document created by an organizer of the conference with a word processor on the computer. If the original electronic document is available in any manner, the processing for converting from the paper material into the

electronic document is unnecessary, and conversion errors [in] during the conversion processing are not generated at all, which is very efficient.

In a conventional example, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 50598/1996, when printing electronic documents on paper, search information of the original electronic document is previously added to a pattern which can be recognized by a machine such as a bar code reader, and the bar code on the paper document is scan-recognized so that the original electronic document corresponding to the paper document is searched and obtained.

The eighth full paragraph on page 3 (line 25):

wherein said portable communication terminal [increases:] includes:

The paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 (page 3, line 35 to page 4, line 4):

In the case of printing electronic information data stored in the electronic information server, since the electronic information data is directly transmitted from the electronic information server to the print device to be printed, faster printing is enabled as compared with the case where the electronic information data is temporarily transmitted to the portable communication terminal.

The second full paragraph on page 7 (lines 13-17):

The printer [3] 3b does not have a function for connecting to the internet 4 but has a radio communication function for performing radio communication with the portable communication terminal 1 so as to enable printing based on designation from the portable communication terminal 1.

The second full paragraph on page 8 (lines 13-20):

Data read by the scanner 1b is mainly stored in the electronic information storage portion 21 in the electronic information server [21] 2, but document data created by a computer or a word processor may be also stored in the electronic information storage portion 21. Further, text data obtained by

carrying out OCR processing for data read by the scanner 1b to the OCR processing may be stored in the electronic information storage portion 21.

The second full paragraph on page 13 (lines 7-17):

Fig. 16 is a block [diagrams] diagram showing an inner structure of the portable communication terminal 1, the electronic information server 2 and the printer 3a. The portable communication terminal 1 in Fig. 16 has the structure of omitting the electronic information download processing portion 13 and the electronic information storage portion [21] 15 from the portable communication terminal 1 in Fig. 4. Further, the printer 3a in Fig. 16 has such a structure as that the electronic information download processing portion 34 is added to the printer 3a shown in Fig. 16. It is to be noted that the electronic information server 2 has the structure equal to that depicted in Fig. 4.

Marked-Up Claims:

5. [The] An electronic information management system [according to claim 4,] comprising:

a portable communication terminal capable of transmitting/receiving data through a network;

an electronic information server which can transmit/receive data through said network and which records a plurality of electronic information including at least either document data or image data; and

a first printing device capable of receiving print data through said network,

wherein said portable communication terminal includes:

search conditions directing means configured to transmit search conditions of electronic information to said electronic information server;

electronic information storing means configured to store electronic information which meets said search conditions transmitted from said electronic information server;

print designating means configured to transmit the electronic information stored in said electronic information storing means to said first printing device to perform printing;

displaying means capable of displaying character information;

menu display controlling means configured to display a menu for selecting various kinds of functions on said displaying means;

key inputting means configured to select the functions in accordance with said menu;

data type display controlling means configured to display, on said displaying means, first information indicating that a data main body of the electronic information is stored in said portable communication terminal, and second information indicating that said data main body of the electronic information is not stored in said portable communication terminal but information representing a storage position of said electronic information is stored in said portable communication terminal; and

print information selecting means configured to select electronic information which can be a target to be printed by said printing device from the information displayed on said displaying means by said data type display controlling means.

6. [The] An electronic information management system [according to claim 5,] comprising:

a portable communication terminal capable of transmitting/receiving data through a network;

an electronic information server which can transmit/receive data through said network and which records a plurality of electronic information including at least either document data or image data; and

a first printing device capable of receiving print data through said network,

wherein said portable communication terminal includes:

search conditions directing means configured to transmit search conditions of electronic information to said electronic information server;

electronic information storing means configured to store electronic information which meets said search conditions transmitted from said electronic information server;

print designating means configured to transmit the electronic information stored in said electronic information storing means to said first printing device to perform printing;

displaying means capable of displaying character information;

menu display controlling means configured to display a menu for selecting various kinds of functions on said displaying means;

key inputting means configured to select the functions in accordance with said menu;

data type display controlling means configured to display, on said displaying means, first information indicating that a data main body of the electronic information is stored in said portable communication terminal, and second information indicating that said data main body of the electronic information is not stored in said portable communication terminal but information representing a storage position of said electronic information is stored in said portable communication terminal; and

print information selecting means configured to select electronic information which can be a target to be printed by said printing device from the information displayed on said displaying means by said data type display controlling means,

wherein when said second information is selected by said print information selecting means, said print designating means downloads the corresponding electronic information from said electronic information server into said portable communication terminal, and then transmits said downloaded electronic information to said printing device.